

HB212 Letters of support for House Appropriations Committee January 16, 2009

- |                                                                   |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Carole Kovacich, Project Care                                  | Anaconda    |
| 2. Paul Chinberg, Family Service                                  | Billings    |
| 3. Carmen Gonzalez,                                               | Billings    |
| 4. Sue Bailey, Yellowstone County Council on Aging                | Billings    |
| 5. School Health Advisory Committee, Billings Public Schools      | Billings    |
| 6. Kathy Aragon, School Board Trustee                             | Billings    |
| 7. Frank Cotton, Butte Rescue Mission                             | Butte       |
| 8. Sheri Schmidt, McCone Food Bank                                | Circle      |
| 9. Allison Kinney, Schools & Youth                                | Florence    |
| 10. Connie Smith, Action for Eastern Montana                      | Glendive    |
| 11. Leah Ollerman, Family Support Coordinator, Head Start         | Glendive    |
| 12. Nancy Miller, Boys & Girls Club of Dawson County              | Glendive    |
| 13. Sara Delamater, Action for Eastern Montana, LIEAP Program     | Glendive    |
| 14. Linda O'Connor, Social Services Dir., Glendive Medical Center | Glendive    |
| 15. Gloria Garceau-Glaser, AWARE                                  | Glendive    |
| 16. Edwin Grinder, Great Falls Rescue Mission                     | Great Falls |
| 17. Debbie McClary, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies                | Great Falls |
| 18. Lori Botkin, Flathead Food Bank                               | Kalispell   |
| 19. Lauri Erickson, NW MT Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry       | Kalispell   |
| 20. Leroy Spang, President, Northern Cheyenne Tribe               | Lame Deer   |
| 21. Geri Small, CPO Boys & Girls Club, Northern Cheyenne Nation   | Lame Deer   |
| 22. Michelle Mickolio, Family Support Specialist, DEAP            | Miles City  |
| 23. Sharon Wilcox, Custer County Community Health Center          | Miles City  |
| 24. Alice Mandeville, Head Start                                  | Miles City  |
| 25. Linda Niedege, Head Start                                     | Miles City  |
| 26. Gena Montoya, Teen Challenge Montana Outreach                 | Missoula    |
| 27. Lee Heckle, Talbot Boys & Girls Home (Youth Homes Program)    | Missoula    |
| 28. Cynthia Lotty, Missoula Food Bank                             | Missoula    |
| 29. Dorey Rowland, Missoula Food Bank                             | Missoula    |
| 30. Sara Sifers, Boys & Girls Club of Richland County             | Sidney      |

**PROJECT CARE**  
**709 East Third Street**  
**Anaconda, Montana 59711**

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Carole Kovacich and I represent the Project Care Food Bank in Anaconda. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

**This bill would help support my community, Anaconda, because**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Kovacich".

Carole Kovacich

709 East Third Street

Anaconda, Montana 59711

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Paul Chinberg and I represent Family Service, Inc. in Billings. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

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**This bill would help support my community, Billings, because :**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,  
Paul Chinberg  
P. O. Box 1020  
Billings, MT 59103

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

It is with great opportunity I write you advocating for the Montana Families, the Lost and the Increasing numbers of Families in imminent danger of becoming homeless. Montana Families currently struggle daily with so many challenges, Please don't let HUNGER be THEIR NEXT CHALLENGE.

Montana is a strong, confident and beautiful state. Each city, region, county and its' residents have great levels of advocacy and caring. I have had many opportunities to travel and each time I returned home so proud to be a MONTANAN, because Montana walks the walk. When it says it cares, Montana does something incredible to make a difference in so many lives.

We are seen as a tough, independent and courageous people. Please help our families become just as tough, independent and courageous through HB 212.

Keep our State fed  
Keep our Cities fed  
Keep our Families fed  
But, Above All,  
Let's keep our Children fed.

Thank you for your Leadership and support of  
**"Doing what is in the best interest of others"**

Respectfully,  
Carmen Gonzalez  
213 Orchard Lane  
Billings, Montana 59101

# THE Resource CENTER

January 15, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Member of the Committee

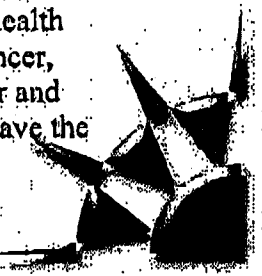
RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Sue Bailey and I represent the Yellowstone County Council on Aging Resource Center in Billings, Montana. I am writing to request your support for HB212- the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

This bill would help support our senior and adult disabled clients in Billings, Montana because many of these individuals face ongoing challenges to feed and shelter themselves. Many are solely dependent on their Social Security benefit for income. Even with the annual Cost of Living raise (COLA) the rising cost of gas, utilities, medications and food often leave folks with more bills than income month after month. With the recent financial crisis and the failure of corporations and unions support, we are seeing more and more senior losing pensions and medical insurance they had depended on. Some seniors are able to return to the work force to augment their incomes but many due to health, lack of transportation or lack of opportunity are not able to work to increase their income. While both federal and state assistance programs are present, they often have income or asset limits that require the individual to spend most or all of their saving and hence the individual's sense of security. The independent minded Montana senior or disabled individual will often prefer the cold, lack of medication or food to "going on welfare".

The Montana Food Bank Network plays a critical and ever increasing role in helping keep our clients healthy. I have personally seen the gratitude on the face of the senior to whom I deliver an elderly commodity box each month. Without this additional food her diet would lack protein and vegetables, as these are some of the most expensive food stuffs and many often go without. Many senior and adults with disabilities have health conditions that require a healthy and consistent diet. Disease such as diabetes, cancer, and heart ailments all require diets high in protein and vegetables and low in sugar and carbohydrates. Without the Food Bank Network, many of my clients would not have the



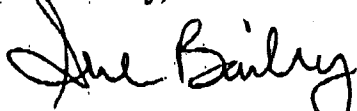
# THE Resource CENTER

balanced diet their health requires because they can not purchase enough of the best food for themselves and eliminate their hunger as well.

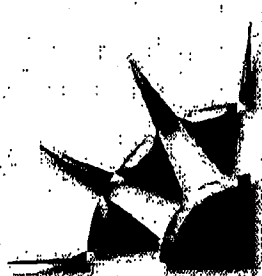
The Yellowstone County Council on Aging provides over 200 Meals on Wheels meals each day Monday through Friday and feeds hundreds of senior each month at multiple senior congregate meals site throughout Yellowstone County. We have already received food stuffs from the Montana Food Bank Network which has allowed us to stretch our limited funds farther and purchase more healthy foods.

As our community faces increase unemployment, higher shelter costs, and more expensive medical care, food often takes a backseat to other pending bills. But everyone still needs to eat and a healthy diet helps individuals remain well which is especially important for the senior and adult disabled population. Good nutrition helps reduce other medical cost they might face and costs ultimately the taxpayer may support. A strong, well funded Montana Food Bank Network will help Montanans meet their nutritional needs in the most efficient manner. Please Support the "Food and Nutrition" bill - House Bill 212.

Sincerely,



Sue Bailey, Resource Center Program Manger  
Yellowstone County Council on Aging  
PO Box 20895  
Billings, MT 59104  
(406)259-5212  
yccoasb@imt.net



January 15, 2009

Dear Legislators,

Please support HB 212, the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. The rising unemployment rate and fewer donations to food pantries across the state have made hunger an increasingly common problem in Montana.

HB 212 seeks funding for the next biennium for continuing the work of the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN). MFBN has 190 agencies around the state and provides emergency food to each of them. "Agencies" include food pantries, soup kitchens and feeding program sites such as senior centers, childcare centers and group homes many of which serve a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of the agencies served by MFBN are on Native American reservations.

Historically, MFBN has been funded primarily through private donations with some help from the state. The current economic slowdown has created two problems: The demand for emergency food supplies by local food pantries has increased by more than 30% while donations have decreased by an average of 18% state wide. Clearly, MFBN can no longer meet the needs of hungry Montanans by relying primarily on private donations. Furthermore, fuel costs, increased global demand for select foods, and crop failures have pushed the cost of many staple foods steadily higher since 2007. Despite the current decrease in crude oil costs, food prices are expected to remain relatively high for the foreseeable future. Unemployment, though lower in Montana than it is nationally, has increased steadily and a colder than average December caused many low-income individuals to divert some of their food budget to pay for heat. As a result of all of these conditions, more people than ever are turning to various social service agencies for emergency food supplies.

*The statewide food pantry data for 2008 indicate: Across the state of Montana, food pantries that receive local donations reported on average an 18% decrease in donations of funds and foods. At the same time, the MFBN experienced a 32% increase in requests for food from regional food pantries. Statewide food pantries reported the number of clients seeking food was up 129%.*

Although an outpouring of food pantry donations occurred over the holidays, the outlook for the remainder of the year is grim. As members of the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) for the Billings Public Schools we have learned first hand of the food security challenges many of our lower-income students face outside of school hours. Among other obligations, the SHAC oversees the nutritional content of foods sold on school campuses and tries to make sure all qualifying students participate in the free and reduced school meals and supplementary milk programs. We can testify that hunger is a



growing issue in our community and we are grappling with ways to provide supplementary food to students on weekends, during school holidays and even for evening meals. Demand for free and reduced meals by students in grades Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> has increased from an average of 37% in fall 2007 to 40% by fall 2008. The local unemployment rate basically tripled during this same time period. The SHAC anticipates that the number of students qualifying for the subsidized meals program will increase further during January due to loss of seasonal jobs, loss of weather-sensitive employment, and contraction of industries affected by the economic downturn. Many of the students who qualify for reduced cost meals are children of the working poor. This is the same group of individuals who tend to seek small amounts of emergency food supplies particularly near the end of a pay cycle rather than sign up for food stamps for which they may not qualify or who's food stamp allotment is not sufficient for their family's monthly food needs.

Providing nutritious food to hungry Montanans is a humanitarian imperative. It also makes good economic sense. A portion of the funds provided by HB-212 will be used to promote long-term food security skills amongst those currently seeking emergency food supplies. Furthermore, well-fed children learn and behave better in school well-nourished adults are more productive at work, have fewer absences and fewer accidents. Well-fed people of all ages have fewer illnesses. Investing in feeding programs now can prevent more costly public expenditures in other areas such as healthcare in the future and it makes the best use of our education dollars.

In order to help mitigate the hunger crisis, The Billings Public School Health Advisory Committee respectfully requests your support for HB212.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this legislation.

Sincerely,

The Billings Public Schools Health Advisory Committee

Lincoln Center  
415 N 30th St  
Billings, MT 59101

**Billings School Health Advisory Committee  
2008-2009 Membership List**

Virginia L Mermel, PhD, CNS, CLC Licensed Nutritionist / Wellness Consultant, SHCA Chair

Paul Manning, Director Billings YMCA, SHAC Co-chair

Bernie Mason, Yellowstone County Extension Agent

Bette Hunt, Director Billings Public Schools Food Service

Jennifer Staton, Grassroots Coordinator, RiverStone Health

Anne Nichols, RN School Nurse, Billings Catholic Schools

Ann Guthals, Montana Farm to Fork Committee Member

Beverly McHugh, RD Dietitian St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings, MT

Dan Gall, MD Internal Medicine Physician, Billings Clinic

Robert Roe, PhD, Physical Therapist, US Public Health Service, Crow Agency

Kay Schwartz, Health Careers Teacher, Billings Public Schools Career Center

Karen Dawson, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher, Billings Public Schools

Bruce McIntyre, Legislative Liaison, Billings Chamber of Commerce

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

Please support HB 1212, the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. As we are all aware, precious organizations like our local food pantries are suffering because of the economical climate. Yet the community need for our local food pantry service grows with rising unemployment.

As a community health advocate, parent volunteer in the schools, and now public school board trustee, I have seen children become anxious near the holidays when they will not be in school. They become anxious because many of these children depend on the schools for their primary source of meals. The local food pantry is also an invaluable resource for these families and an absolute necessity in meeting their basic needs.

As the number of children qualifying for free and reduced meals at our schools increases I become more and more concerned for these families. I also become more and more appreciative and aware of the need for local food pantry service.

I urge you to support HB 1212, and thank you for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Kathy Aragon  
School Board Trustee  
Billings, MT



# Butte Rescue Mission

1204 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. • Butte, MT 59701

Phone: 406-782-0925

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Frank Cotton and I represent the Butte Rescue Mission in Butte, MT. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

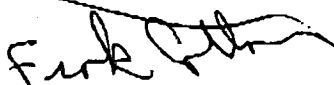
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Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

This bill would help support my community, Butte, MT because this bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,



Frank Cotton  
Executive Director  
Butte Rescue Mission  
Butte, MT

Pastor Frank Cotton  
Executive Director

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Sheri Schmidt and I represent McCone Food Bank in Circle .

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

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**This bill would help support my community, Circle and McCone County because**

Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.

While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.

This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Sheri Schmidt  
Circle, MT 59215  
McCone Food Bank

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee and my Representative Mr. Ray Hawk,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Allison Dunne-Kinney and I work and volunteer in schools and youth organizations in Ravalli County and my home community of Florence. I work to increase Family Literacy and Civic Engagement.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support the Florence Community. It would provide much needed support to families challenged not only by a national economic crisis, but also a community working hard to become more economically viable. Please support HB212 as it addresses the following local issues:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.
- For children the bill would provide adequate nutrition is essential to school performance, good behavior and attention spans.
- Our community relies on deliveries of food from the Montana Food Bank Network to provide healthy food for the children we serve.
- For seniors Social Security often cannot provide enough retirement income for seniors to stay afloat.
- The MFBN provide essential services to seniors – whether it be an inexpensive meal with friends, a commodity food box to get through the month, a home-delivered meal or advice on how to sign up for federal food programs. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network for nutritious food, timely delivery and resources and outreach that can help seniors access the programs they need.
- Homeless individuals face a number of barriers to food security:
  - Unstable living/cooking conditions
  - Health problems

- Mental health barriers
- Montana's emergency food system provides crucial support for homeless Montanans.
- MFBN also partners with Mental Health Centers, food banks and Human Resource Councils to reach out to homeless individuals and let them know how to access public nutrition programs.

MFBN works hard to ensure that all children across Montana have access to healthy food. Some of their initiatives include:

- Promoting Summer Food Programs and creating new sites
- Doing outreach to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, thus increasing kids' access to free school meals.
- Promoting school breakfast programs

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Allison Dunne-Kinney  
4952 Hoblitt Lane  
Florence, MT 59833  
406-531-2744

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Connie Smith and I represent Action for Eastern Montana in Glendive. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support my community of Glendive, and the seventeen counties of eastern Montana that our agency serves, because families face:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
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Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,  
Connie Smith  
Action for Eastern Montana  
PO Box 1309  
Glendive, MT 59330



January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Leah Ollerman and I represent Action for Eastern Montana Head Start in Glendive, Montana. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

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**This bill would help support my community, Glendive, because:**

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Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Leah Ollerman  
Family Support Coordinator  
120 Colorado Blvd  
Glendive, Montana

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Nancy Miller and I represent The Boys & Girls Club of Dawson County in Glendive, Montana. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

**This bill would help support my community, Glendive and Dawson County because:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Nancy Miller  
Director of Operations  
Boys & Girls Club of Dawson County  
Glendive, MT 59330

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Sara Delamater and I represent Action for Eastern Montana in Glendive. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support my community, Glendive, because there are so many families that cannot afford to buy food, while some take advantage of it.**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Sara Delamater  
Energy Program Specialist  
Action for Eastern Montana  
Glendive, Montana

**Glendive  
Medical  
Center**

202 Prospect Drive • Glendive, Montana 59330-1999 • (406) 345-3306 • FAX: (406) 345-3358

January 15, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this in support of Food and Nutrition House Bill 212.

As a Social Services worker at the Glendive Medical Center for 17 years, and as a member of the local Salvation Army (SA) Board of Directors, I see families who have had increased requests to meet basic needs.

At the Medical Center we work with Seniors who are choosing between health care and heat and prescriptions. They don't think they need to have the basic nutrients every day for a number of reasons. First and foremost they tell me they "can't afford" nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables. They are choosing to pay their heating bill, or buy the prescriptions the doctor ordered.

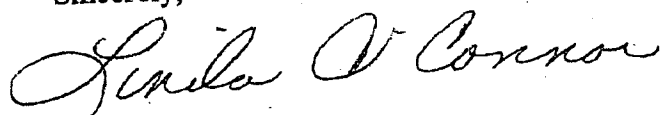
Glendive is fortunate enough to have 42 slots for the commodities Supplemental Food Program. There are people on the waiting list to receive staples (evaporated milk, instant milk, peanut butter, beans, chili, beef stew, tuna, cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, rice, spaghetti, macaroni, or potatoes). The truck comes once a month and the recipients don't get everything listed above, but basically a sampling. We also have a Food Bank in Glendive. However, it is open four hours a month or emergencies for those needing assistance.

As a SA volunteer we are seeing more families who can't afford the prescription for their child or themselves because their paycheck only covers the necessities. An antibiotic for a toddler hasn't been factored into the budget, so food takes a back burner. Unfortunately, SA is set up to address emergencies only. Many issues result from the increase in rent, utilities, gas, clothing and food and families and individuals have to decide what's going to be left unpaid for the month. Too often it's a meal.

I personally believe the answer does not lie alone within a bill to feed hungry Montanans. We need to provide education to families about nutrition, help them see the correlation between the nutritional needs of their families and the food in the grocery card, and petition volunteers who can assist families with budgeting, and the worth of community gardens.

I support House Bill 212 as it supports the needs of our community and individuals around the State. I request you vote For Bill 212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda O'Connor". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Linda O'Connor  
Social Services Director



January 15, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Chairman Sesso and members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Gloria Garceau-Glaser and I am Targeted Case Manager for A.W.A.R.E. in Glendive and the surrounding areas. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival.

I advocate for people with developmental disabilities age 16, through adulthood. My caseload of 38 spans five counties in Eastern Montana (Dawson, McCone, Fallon, Prairie and Wibaux) where a significant portion of the population lives at or below the poverty level. In fact, the only income that most of my consumers receive is a limited Social Security/SSI check each month. Most rely upon generic community resources like the Montana Food Bank Network to supplement their meager earnings, which then enables them to stay healthy and make ends meet. It is critical that the State increase their support for this valuable program, which supplies nutritious food, resources and outreach to those in need.

Please help us meet the needs of our fellow Montanans by supporting the Food and Nutrition Bill - House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Gloria Garceau-Glaser  
Targeted Case Manager

606 N Merrill Ave. Suite 2 • Glendive, MT 59330  
(406)377-6929 Telephone • (406)377-4532 Fax  
The Right Services ... to the Right People ... at the Right Time! ®

Great Falls Rescue Mission

January 15, 2009

PO Box 129

Great Falls MT 59403-0129

Dear Mr. Chairman Sesso & Committee Members

We fully concur with the support of the Montana Food Bank for House Bill 212 to be introduced on Friday, January 16, 2009.

The Rescue Mission has experienced a major increase in the number of homeless and hungry men, women and children that we have served during the past 8-12 month. Not only have we had a full facility during that time, but we have had a steady increase of those who come only for meals. Because we depend upon the local food bank for a fair portion of our food supplies, we respectfully request that the committee favorably support this bill.

Sincerely,

Edwin H. Grnder

Business Administrator

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Debbie Clary and I represent HMHBS (organization) in Great Falls (town). I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

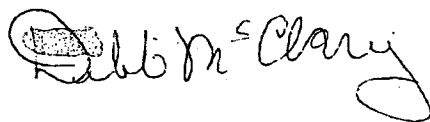
Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

This bill would help support my community, GF

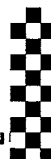
- Children stand to suffer the most from lack of nutritious food
- Adequate nutrition is essential to school performance, good behavior and attention spans.
- We rely on deliveries of food from the Montana Food Bank Network to provide healthy food for the children we serve.
- MFBN works hard to ensure that all children across Montana have access to healthy food. Some of their initiatives include:
  - Promoting Summer Food Programs and creating new sites
  - Doing outreach to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, thus increasing kids' access to free school meals.
  - Promoting school breakfast programs

- Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,



Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies  
P.O. Box 2085  
Great Falls, MT. 59403-2085





105 6TH AVE WEST



FLATHEAD  
FOOD  
BANK

Feeding the Hungry  
in our Community  
Since 1982

KALISPELL, MT 59901

Office: (406) 752-3663

Fax: (406) 752-2572

www.FlatheadFoodBank.com

January 15, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Sheryl Border  
Kalispell  
President

Judi Yeats  
Whitefish  
Vice President

Debra Koch  
Kalispell  
Secretary

John Gardner  
Kalispell  
Treasurer

Brad Kelsey  
Kalispell

Dev Larson  
Kalispell

Susan Tuazynski  
West Valley

Ed Corrigan  
Kalispell

Karl Wiley  
Kalispell

Robert Nyman  
Lakeside

Doug Deaton  
Bigfork

## STAFF MEMBERS:

Lori Botkin  
Executive Director

Man Alexander  
Operations Manager

Alex Bussey  
Volunteer Coordinator

John Emerson  
Special Events Coordinator

Mary Wagner  
Warehouse Assistant

Sue Stuber  
Bigfork Pantry Manager

Wendy Furwoodson  
Pick Up/Delivery Driver

My name is Lori Botkin and I am the Executive Director of the Flathead Food Bank in Kalispell, MT.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network (MFBN) and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include the Flathead Food Bank and its satellite pantries in Martin City, Marion, Evergreen and Bigfork. In 2008 the MFBN provided us with over 70,000 pounds of food for 3,124 families in our community that are made up of 7933 people - 45% of them being children and senior citizens.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just last week in Kalispell there were another 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. The Columbia Falls Aluminum plant will be closing in February, leaving over 200 families jobless. I am positive that the trickle down from these companies is much more than we have heard of, with many families losing their jobs as a direct result of the larger companies cutting back. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we need to be there for them.

The Montana Food Bank Network does a great job gathering and distributing food for families throughout the state of Montana. We rely on them to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients. House Bill 212 is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need - despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreases food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Lori Botkin, Executive Director  
Flathead Food Bank, Kalispell, MT

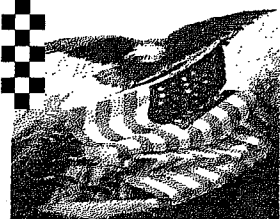
KALISPELL  
105 6th Avenue West  
Kalispell, MT 59901

BIGFORK  
Hwy 35 South 22 Village Lane  
Bigfork, MT 59901

EVERGREEN  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
2200 Hwy 2 East Evergreen, MT 59901

MARION  
Fire Department Auxiliary Bldg  
Marion, MT 59925

MARTIN CITY  
Hood Store Building  
Martin City, MT 59928

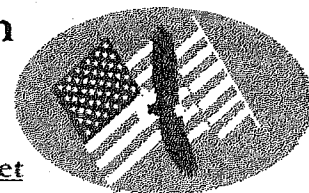


## North West Montana Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry

1527 HWY 35 East Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone 406-756-7304 Fax 406 756 5476 Email [papadogs@centurytel.net](mailto:papadogs@centurytel.net)

Our Mission: "We are dedicated to providing a helping hand up to homeless, low-income and at risk veterans and their families".



January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Lauri Erickson and I represent the N. W. MT Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry in Kalispell. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

**This bill would help support my community, Kalispell, because:**

If you serve individuals and/or families through emergency food services:

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

**"Veteran's Helping Veteran's and Communities"**

North West Montana Veterans Stand Down & Food Pantry is a 501 (C) 3 organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service. Gifts are tax-deductible. EIN# 74-3030535



-WOHEHIV-  
The Morning Star

**NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE**  
**ADMINISTRATION**

P.O. BOX 128  
LAME DEER, MONTANA 59043  
(406) 477-6284  
FAX (406) 477-6210



-WOHEHIV-  
The Morning Star

Received Time Jan. 16. 2009 9:37AM No. 1764

JAN-17-2009 SAT 10:32 AM

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee  
Montana Legislature  
State Capitol  
Helena, Montana 59043

Dear Chairman Sesso and Members of the Committee

I am writing in support of HB 212 – the Food and Nutrition Bill, sponsored by Representative Dave Barrett and Senator Dave Lewis and introduced at the request of the Montana Food Bank.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe urges passage of this legislation and the necessary appropriations to implement it. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe participates in the Montana Food Bank, which is literally a “life-line” for many families who are poor and hungry here on the Reservation. The Montana Food Bank delivers food to the Northern Cheyenne Boys and Girls Club which then distributes it to qualified community members, averaging several hundred households per month. The Tribe provides funding in the amount of \$400.00 per month to defray the cost of labor for unloading the trucks and distributing the food.

While the donations from the Montana Food Bank are greatly appreciated, it doesn't meet the need on the Reservation. The food is distributed on a “first-come first-serve” basis and on distribution days, there are many people who do not get food boxes. Nevertheless, whatever the Montana Food Bank can do is extremely beneficial to the hungry people on the Reservation.

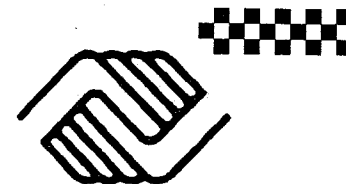
On behalf of our community, I urge your support for the Food and Nutrition Bill.  
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leroy Spang, President  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

P. 001



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF THE NORTHERN  
CHEYENNE NATION

Boys & Girls Club of the  
Northern Cheyenne Nation

101 Cheyenne Avenue  
P.O. Box 309  
Lame Deer, MT 59043  
Phone: (406) 477-6654  
Fax: (406) 477-8646  
Email: kids@ncbgclub.org

JAN-16-2009 FRI 05:50 PM

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Geri Small, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support my community, Lame Deer, because:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Geri Small  
Chief Professional Officer

P. 001

Received Time Jan. 15. 2009 4:55PM No. 1748

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Michele Mickoli. I am a Family Support Specialist and I represent Developmental Education Assistance Program, DEAP, in Miles City MT.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

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This bill would help support my community, in Miles City, because we serve individuals and families with young children

- Children stand to suffer the most from lack of nutritious food
- Adequate nutrition is essential to school performance, good behavior and attention spans.
- We rely on deliveries of food from the Montana Food Bank Network to provide healthy food for the children we serve.
- MFBN works hard to ensure that all children across Montana have access to healthy food. Some of their initiatives include:
  - Promoting Summer Food Programs and creating new sites
  - Doing outreach to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, thus increasing kids' access to free school meals.
  - Promoting school breakfast programs

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Michele Mickolio  
2200 Box Elder  
Miles City MT 59301

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Sharon Wilcox and I represent Custer County Community Health Center in Miles City.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support my community, Miles City, because:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
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  - Promoting Summer Food Programs and creating new sites
  - Doing outreach to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, thus increasing kids' access to free school meals.
  - Promoting school breakfast programs
- We've seen the difficulties seniors face.
- Social Security often cannot provide enough retirement income for seniors to stay afloat.
- Many seniors have lost their pensions and with it, their plan for the future.
- Many seniors need to work far past retirement age, even as their health begins to fail.
- Those that can't work depend heavily on public and private programs stay healthy and make ends meet.

- We provide essential services to seniors – whether it be an inexpensive meal with friends, a commodity food box to get through the month, a home-delivered meal or advice on how to sign up for federal food programs. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network for nutritious food, timely delivery and resources and outreach that can help seniors access the programs they need.
- [Include statistics on senior center use of MFBN food]
- Homeless individuals face a number of barriers to food security:
  - Unstable living/cooking conditions
  - Health problems
  - Mental health barriers
- Montana's emergency food system provides crucial support for homeless Montanans.
- MFBN's member agencies include soup kitchens, emergency shelters and youth homes. [provide MFBN statistics]
- MFBN also partners with Mental Health Centers, food banks and Human Resource Councils to reach out to homeless individuals and let them know how to access public nutrition programs.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Sharon W. Wilcox  
 Custer County Community Health Center  
 210 Winchester #136  
 Miles City, MT 59301  
 406-234-8793 ext 101

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Alice Mandeville and I represent Action for Eastern Montana Head Start in Miles City. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

**This bill would help support my community, Miles City because**

- Children stand to suffer the most from lack of nutritious food
- Adequate nutrition is essential to school performance, good behavior and attention spans.
- We rely on deliveries of food from the Montana Food Bank Network to provide healthy food for the children we serve.
- MFBN works hard to ensure that all children across Montana have access to healthy food. Some of their initiatives include:
  - Promoting Summer Food Programs and creating new sites
  - Doing outreach to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, thus increasing kids' access to free school meals.
  - Promoting school breakfast programs

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,  
Alice Mandeville  
1608 N. Merriam  
Miles City, Montana 59301



January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Linda Niedege and I represent Action for Eastern Montana Head Start in Miles City. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Linda Niedege  
Head Start  
Miles City, Montana

January 14, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Gena Montoya and I represent Teen Challenge Montana Outreach in Missoula. I am writing to request your support of HB 212 – the “Fund Food and Nutrition” bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

Teen Challenge is a non-profit organization that serves women 18 and older who have life controlling problems such as substance abuse issues, depression, anger and other such problems. Our program relies solely on the support of outside donors and organizations. The MFBN has supplied the women in our program with not only food but has also been able to provide us with other daily necessities such as hygiene items and cleaning supplies. Many of these items we would never have been able to afford as any donations made to the program go to rent, phone and electricity to keep our facility running.

We have greatly appreciated all that has been donated to our center by the Montana Food Bank Network and ask that you would please keep the operation going. We would be greatly stressed to provide the types of items that the MFBN has provide to our 12 – 20 women if we should lose these donations.

I thank you for taking the time to read this considering the lives that are changed and the women who are empowered through our program.

Sincerely,

Gena Montoya  
Teen Challenge Montana Outreach  
3815 S 7<sup>th</sup> St W  
Missoula, Mt 59804

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Lee and I represent Taibol Boys & Girls Home, a program of Youth Homes, Inc. in Missoula.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

This bill would help support my community, Missoula, because this bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,



January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Cynthia Lotty, Executive Director of Missoula Food Bank and I represent in Missoula, Montana.

I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

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**This bill would help support my community, Missoula County, and the 50,000 people to whom we provide food assistance each year. This bill is needed because of the following:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lotty  
219 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street West  
Missoula, Montana 59801

January 16, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Dorey Rowland and I represent Missoula Food Bank in Missoula. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

**This bill would help support my community, Missoula, because of the following points:**

- Difficulties in our economy—from increased fuel costs, food prices, housing costs to unemployment—all result in more families in need of food assistance. We rely on the Montana Food Bank Network to leverage costs associated with our programs and to assist us in outreach to our clients.
- While demand for emergency food assistance has increased tremendously with our agency and many others across the state, our supplies have not been able to keep pace.
- This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Dorey Rowland, Program Manager  
Missoula Food Bank  
Missoula

January 14, 2009

House Appropriations Committee

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

RE: HB212 Fund Food and Nutrition Bill

My name is Sarah Sifers and I represent the Boys & Girls Club of Richland County in Sidney. I am writing to request your support for HB 212 - the "Fund Food and Nutrition" bill. This bill is at the request of the Montana Food Bank Network and is being sponsored by Rep. Dick Barrett in the House and Senator Dave Lewis in the Senate.

MFBN serves 190 agencies in the state - providing them with emergency food. The agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens as well as feeding program sites such as senior centers, child care centers and group homes that have a high number of low-income adults or children. Several of these agencies are on the reservations.

Up till now, MFBN has done its work mainly through private donations and with some help from the state. The time has come now when the demand is so high, that MFBN cannot function on private donations alone. Even those pantries that receive local food donations, in addition to what MFBN provides, have seen a dramatic drop. In 2008, the local donations were down by 18%, while the demand for food to MFBN from the food pantries was up by 32% and the increase in number of clients was up 129%. In the current economic environment, as more and more Montanans are either losing jobs or their work hours have been decreased, they turn to food pantries for their survival. Just recently we read about 150 layoffs at Plum Creek and 200 at Semi-tool. Until these people can get their lives back to normal - they and their families have to eat - and we want to be there for them.

- **This bill would help support my community, Sidney, because** This bill (House Bill 212) is critical to ensure that agencies across Montana have the necessary resources to provide assistance to Montana families in need—despite the risk of increased transportation costs or decreased food supplies. And that we can offer healthy filling food to our youth.

Please help us to meet the needs of our fellow Montanans. Support the Food and Nutrition Bill—House Bill 212.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sifers  
200 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave SE  
Sidney, MT